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Identical letters dated 9 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you hereunder the particulars of the latest act of piracy and aggression perpetrated by United States forces stationed in the Arabian Gulf region.

On 12 December 2000, the vessel *Al-Ammar*, owned by the Iraqi businessman Abd al-Salam al-Basrawi, was the target of an unsuccessful attempt at piracy by United States forces stationed in the Arabian Gulf. They were unable to open the vessel's hatches, and when it tried to effect an escape an explosion in its engines killed two seamen. A third seaman, a Sudanese national, was badly burnt.

These repeated acts of piracy by United States naval forces stationed in the Arabian Gulf region are in violation of international law and custom, and they pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

I request you to intervene with the Government of the United States of America with a view to inducing it to desist forthwith from these hostile practices. In accordance with the principle of international responsibility, I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to claim compensation for the damage done to it and to its nationals by these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Humaimidi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.